Power generation through wind and solar energy

*114. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details in megawatts of power generated in the country through Solar and Wind Energy during the last three years; and

(b) the places where Solar and Wind Energy are being used alongwith number of people who are making use of said energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) While wind energy is being harnessed for grid interactive renewable power, solar photovoltaic technology is being utilized mainly in off-grid decentralized applications. During the last three years, *i.e.* 2001-02 to 2003-04, wind power projects of a total capacity of 1144 MW and grid-interactive solar photovoltaic plants with an aggregate capacity of 2.7 MWp have been installed in the country. Around 7620 million units of electricity have been generated by wind power projects during the above period.

(b) As per Census of India 2001, around 5.22 lakh households are utilizing solar energy as a predominant source for lighting applications. Electricity generated from wind power projects set up in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is fed into the respective State electricity grids for usual end-use applications.

Proposal for a National Programme to exploit solar energy

*115. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state whether Government propose to make a nation wide programme to exploit solar energy so that the villages in remote areas could be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): Wide-ranging programmes for exploitation of solar energy for various applications are being implemented throughout the country, including the remote areas. A Remote Village Electrification Programme is also implemented for electrification of remote villages and hamlets through non-conventional energy sources, including solar photovoltaic systems.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.